Claims:

1.   A method for determining clock skew in a packet-based telephony session comprising the steps of:

        receiving a sequence of control packets from a remote telephony device transmitting media packets in a telephony session; each control packet including a remote real time-stamp; and a remote media card clock time-stamp corresponding to the remote real time-stamp; and

        determining from two or more of said received control packets a first relative rate of a remote media card clock to the remote real time rate.

2.   A method according to claim 1 comprising the steps of:

        transmitting a sequence of control packets from a local telephony device transmitting media packets in a telephony session; each control packet including a local real time-stamp; and a local media card clock time-stamp corresponding to the local real time-stamp; and

        determining from two or more of said transmitted control packets a second relative rate of a local media card clock to the local real-time rate.

3.   A method according to claim 2 comprising the step of:

        synchronizing said local real time rate with said remote real time-rate.

4.   A method according to claim 3 wherein said telephony devices communicate across an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

5.   A method according to claim 4 wherein said network is one of a LAN (Local Area Network) a WAN (Wide Area Network) or the Internet.

6.   A method according to claim 4 wherein said synchronisation employs the Network Time Protocol.

7.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said media packets are Realtime Transport Protocol (RTP) packets and wherein said control packets are RTP Control Protocol (RTCP) Sender Report (SR) packets.

5   8.   A method according to claim 2 further comprising the step of:
          adjusting the contents of a buffer storing said media packets received from a transmitting device according to said first and second relative rates.

9.   A method according to claim 3 further comprising the step of:
10   determining from a difference in time between local real time when a control packet is received and the remote real time-stamp of said control packet, a first approximation of one-way media packet delay; and
          determining from said first relative rate and said first approximation a skew-corrected one-way media packet delay between telephony devices in said telephony session.
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10.   A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of:
          adjusting a playout strategy of said telephony session according to said skew-corrected one-way media packet delay.

20   11.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said real time-stamp is a system clock time.

12.   A telephony application running in a telephony device arranged to perform the steps of claim 1.

25   13.   A computer program product which when executed in a telephony device is arranged to perform the steps of claim 1.